Pathologist's view Dallas Times Herald 3/28/75

JFK autopsy termed 'incompetent'

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A noted pathologist who said he is one of the few persons to see the autopsy reports on President John F. Kennedy has described the autopsy as "incompetent and unbelievable."

Dr. Cyril Wecht, Allegheny County, Pa., coroner, also revealed to a national television audience Thursday night that certain portions of the autopsy are missing.

Wecht, former U.S. Sen. Ralph Yarborough of Austin, a journalist and an attorney took part in an ABC television special to discuss the presidential assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Saying he had conducted or supervised thousands of autopsies, Wecht criticized the post-mortem of Kennedy and said he personally has no doubt someone in addition to Lee Harvey Oswald was responsible for firing shots at the President's motorcade.

A Warren Commission empaneled to study the assassination found Oswald—who was killed two days later in the Dallas Police Department's basement—acted alone in slaying Kennedy.

But journalist Malcom Kildruff, who witnessed the assassination, and author Jim Bishop disputed Wecht and charged Oswald alone killed the President.

"There has been far too much mystery made of this," said Kildruff. "It was the act of a single deranged mind—Oswald."

The author of a book entitled "The Day Kennedy Was Shot," Bishop supported the Warren Commission's findings. But he said three shots were fired — the first missing, the second hitting Kennedy and the third striking Texas Gov. John Connally, who was riding in the presidential limousine.

The commission, according to the panelists, found one bullet entered Kennedy's neck, traveled up his throat and through the top of his forehead, emerging and striking Connally first above the right armpit, then his right wrist and finally lodging in his left thigh.

Yarborough, riding two cars behind the President, said he, too, heard three shots, but he believed some had been fired from in front of Kennedy and not from the Texas School Book Depository Building, where Oswald allegedly fired the shot that killed Kennedy.

"You don't smell gunpowder unless you are upwind from it, and it blows in your face," said Yarborough, who has urged the reopening of the investigation. He said he could not have smelled the gunpowder if the shots had been fired from behind the motorcade.

Also during the 90-minute telecast, a film shot by the late Abraham Zapruder was shown. The film of the assassination shows Kennedy's head jerking backward and to the left after he was shot. The movement, according to theories, indicates the shot was fired from in front of Kennedy and not from the rear.